

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Burg

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 25 January to 20 February 1952

DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED

12 March 1952

REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. Prior to 8 February 1952, the Alte Kaserne on the south side of August Babelstrasse, Burg (M 53/Y 81), quartered about 150 officers and 800 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets. About 50 percent of the troops wore tank insignia; about 25 percent, artillery insignia, and the rest, no branch-of-service insignia at all. About 30 women wearing uniforms with red-bordered black epaulets were also noticed in the billeting area. An acquaintance told source that the units in the installation included two tank training companies that had received young replacements from the U.S.S.R. during the preceding weeks. Infantry training of soldiers up to platoon level and training of student drivers were observed prior to 8 February. Two or three trucks

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with a total of about 60 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen almost daily driving toward the Kraehenberg training area. Two SP guns, were seen returning from the training area on 25 January. One armored reconnaissance car and four-wheel armored personnel carriers were seen leaving the installation toward the training area on 29 January. Ten tank trucks

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2. Prior to 8 February, the Neue Kaserne on the east side of Zerbsterstrasse quartered about 200 officers and 1,000 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets largely with artillery insignia. Some uniformed women wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were also noticed in the billeting area. About 300 troops assembled in the barracks yard for roll call on 26 January.

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A staff car which was often seen

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usually occupied by a colonel, and driven by a soldier who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.

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3. On 20 February, the Alte Kaserne quartered about 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Ten platoons, each composed of 4 officers and about 30 men were seen marching from the installation to the wooded area west of the railroad line to Magdeburg at about 8 a. m. The soldiers wore red-bordered black

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epaulets, including some with tank insignia, and carried small arms and entrenching tools. Twelve squads of 9 or 10 men each were simultaneously seen drilling in the barracks yard. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets and carried rifles. Three T-34/85 tanks were engaged in target practice with subcaliber tubes at 75 meters distance in the billeting area. Four T-34/85 tanks and 3 JS-3 tanks were seen moving into the installation at about 6 p. m. Vehicles observed at the Alte Kaserne

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4. On 20 February, the Neue Kaserne quartered troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, and black-bordered red epaulets. Half-track vehicles each carrying 14 men with red-bordered black epaulets and towing a 122-mm field howitzer, moved into the billeting area on 28 January. A unit of 60 soldiers who wore black-bordered red epaulets and carried rifles was seen marching to the ammunition dump farther to the south on 20 February, while about 300 troops received close-order drill at squad level in the billeting area. On the same day, 500 troops received infantry field training in the training area adjoining the installation to the south and an undetermined number of troops were engaged in marksmanship practice with rifles on the makeshift target ranges. were at the barracks installation. Trucks each carrying four soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and loaded with ammunition boxes drove from the ammunition dump toward Gross Luebars. \*

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- \* Comment. The report confirms previous conclusions regarding the identity of the units in the Alte Kaserne and the Neue Kaserne, Burg. It is possible that the 136th Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army has tank training companies for special training purposes. The 122-mm howitzers which were observed in the Neue Kaserne for the first time since the 1951 Fall maneuvers are indicative of an unidentified artillery unit. This unit may be the one mentioned in the reference report as being equipped with 76.2-mm guns and 122-mm howitzers and it is probably stationed in the Neue Kaserne with the heavy AT artillery regiment of the 44th (?) Army Arty Brig.

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